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# Independence and Peace for the Vietnamese People ! YANKEE GO HOME !

## VIETNAM COURIER

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### SOUTH VIETNAM

- **295 South Korean Mercenaries Wiped Out near Quang Ngai (Dec. 10, 1966)**
- **4 U.S. Companies Put Out of Action 45km Northeast of An Khe (Dec. 26, 1966)**
- **2 U.S. Marine Battalions Pounded by 500 Shells West of Dong Ha (Dec. 28, 1966)**

### NORTH VIETNAM

- **On the Threshold of 1967 the People's Air Force Knocked Down 2 F.4 Phantoms (Jan. 2)**
- **Total Number of U.S. Planes downed since Aug. 5, 1964**

**1,629**

TRAN HANH, fighter plane pilot, hero of the Vietnam People's Armed Forces, back from a combat mission in which he has just downed a U.S. jet.

#### PAGE 4 :

**Massacres of Civilians in Binh Son and Son Tinh Districts by the G.I.'s and South Korean Mercenaries.**

#### OUR SUPPLEMENT

#### 1966

**LANDMARKS OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE'S PATRIOTIC STRUGGLE AGAINST U.S. AGGRESSION**

## 1966, YEAR OF BRILLIANT SUCCESS

Excerpts from the NHAN DAN editorial of Jan. 1, 1967

**1966** just ended was a year in which the Vietnamese people's struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation, won great victories.

We defeated the U.S. imperialists in the initial stage of their local war in the South and in the first round of their air war of destruction in the North; we consoli-

dated and increased in all fields the strength of our people in both zones and made adequate preparations, material and moral, to bring our fight to complete victory.

Our victories were of paramount importance in that our armed forces and people in both zones defeated, though in the first round

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# NO AMOUNT OF BRAGGADOCIO CAN HIDE U.S. DEFEATS

Commentary on the military situation in South Vietnam

IN the last days of 1966, the Washington ruling circles and their agents in Saigon, from Johnson, McNamara, Cabot Lodge to Westmoreland and the diminutive "Gratifier" Nguyen Can Ky, have been repeating, each in his own time, in "assessing" the results of the U.S. war of aggression in South Vietnam.

They boasted that there had been "big changes in the military situation," that "the most important step in 1966 was the successful checking of the main forces of the Vietcong" that "the U.S. had regained military superiority" and "continued to hold the initiative," that the "military stage of the war is evolving favorably," etc.

Let us see whether the U.S. and its henchmen's boastful talks tally with the real situation in South Vietnam.

THERE were indeed "big changes" on the South Vietnam battlefield in the past year. Whereas in early 1966, the military strength ran to only about 180,000 troops in South Vietnam, it has now risen to 380,000, a total far superior to the effectiveness of the puppet regime's troops and almost equal to that of U.S. troops during the Korean war at its hottest stage. The amount of hardware also increased manifold. Compared with the end of 1965, the number of aircraft has increased by one half that of artillery pieces, bombs and bullets by more than three times, the latter having exceeded 4 by the total quantity used during the three years of the aggressive war in Korea.

Yet the most significant and also most painful "change" for the U.S. lies precisely in the fact that the U.S. has slid into the bottom of the abyss of failure while trying to escalate to the highest rung of its aggressive war. In the past year, the U.S. suffered heavy losses in men and material.

100,000 U.S. aggressors were wiped out in the first 11 months of 1966, five times as many as in 1965 and, thus, the total number of U.S. casualties in the four years 1961-1966.

During the same period, 1,012 U.S. aircraft were shot down or destroyed, a figure three times higher than in 1965, aren't these facts impressive signs of the "favorable development of the military stage" of the war much advertised by Johnson and company?

However, the U.S. keeps clamouring about its "victory." What then is that "victory"? On: still remembers that at the end of 1965 when the U.S. lauded nearly 200,000 troops in South Vietnam, both Washington and Saigon loudly proclaimed that 1966 would be a year of "strategic counter-offensive," a year of "splendid victories" when they would "turn the tables on the Vietcong."

Then U.S. troops were landed on South Vietnam in hundreds of thousands and the aggressors set out "strategic goal" after another and resorted to every conceivable method, one more barbarous than the other. Nevertheless the U.S. aggressors continued to lose their hair desperately in face of the growing South Vietnam Liberation Army.

The French paper Le Figaro commented on December 11, 1966: "Early this year the American authorities thought they could defeat the Viet Cong before the year's end. But the situation is

different now. The war has not been won, and the Vietcong remains a formidable political and military force."

The fact that the U.S. has brought into South Vietnam 380,000 troops and tens of thousands of tons of hardware in 1966, the intends to bring tens of thousands more of troops in 1967, constitutes in itself an extremely grave defeat. If the situation has actually evolved as favourably as they claimed, the U.S. aggressors would not be so foolish as to throw one division after another into the South Vietnam battlefield while they already find it overwhelmingly difficult to scrape up money and soldiers for the war.

Bragging is a vice inherent in U.S. imperialism. Yet the way it is bragging now that it has nearly 400,000 U.S. troops in South Vietnam is different from the way it did a year ago when there were only 200,000 U.S. troops. The situation has changed so much that it presents both Johnson and Westmoreland only predict that "the war will be long." Just "there must be more sacrifices and patience," that "there will be no change in the pattern of the war in 1967." Is this "turning down" not an oblique but also unmistakable admission of their failure?

Obviously, U.S. fantastic braggings will not convince people of its military victory, and the point is to check with facts whether the U.S. has attained the strategic objectives it has set for itself. It is evident that in the past year the Pentagon failed to reach any of its three fundamental strategic objectives, namely: a "search and destroy the Viet Cong main forces," to "win the hearts and minds of the people," and to occupy and hold land. Instead, the U.S. lost a hundred thousand men, troops, and met with the deeper hatred and

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RESPONDING TO THE N.F.L. APPEAL AND AVENGING THE INHABITANTS MASSACRED AT SON TINH AND BINH SON

## The L.A.F.

- Wiped out 295 South Korean mercenaries near Quang Ngai (Dec. 10).
- Put out of action 4 Companies, 45 km Northeast of An Khe (Dec. 26).
- Fired 500 shells on 2 U.S. Marine Battalions 25 km west of Dong Ha (Dec. 28).

ACCORDING to L.P.A., in the night of Dec. 9 and 10, the Cong Phung post held by Pak Jung Hi troops, Son Tinh district, 10 km north of Quang Ngai town, was overrun by the L.A.F. who killed 85 enemies and destroyed 8 underground bunkers, 6 blockhouses and 40 barracks.

Let's remind that these mercenaries have been deeply hated by our people for their ferocity and savagery.

ACCORDING to L.P.A., the L.A.F. on Dec. 26, launched a fierce attack on a field encampment of a detachment of the U.S. 1st Air Mobile Cavalry Division some 4 km north of Kim Son, Binh Dinh province.

The L.A.F. stormtroops supported by artillery engaged the enemy troops in a hand-to-hand fight, using bayonets to knock them down one after the other. The Yanks were quickly

cut off before they could move their guns back for direct fire on the L.A.F.

According to preliminary reports, the L.A.F. completely wiped out 2 U.S. infantry and 2 artillery companies, destroyed 8 105 mm guns and captured many weapons and military equipment.

On Dec. 28 afternoon and night, over 500 U.S. mortar and recoilless guns were slammed on the positions of the U.S. marines and puppet troops in Dong Ha, northernmost part of South Vietnam, (UPI).

AP reported that over 100 mortar shells hit a company of Battalion 3, U.S. Marine Regiment 3, and 100 to 150 shells were pounded on the 2 artillery units of Battalion 3, U.S. Marine Regiment 4.

The Headquarters of U.S. Marine Battalion 3, some 25 km west of Dong Ha, was also mortared by the L.A.F.

The spokesman of the U.S. marines admitted that both U.S. units had sustained "moderate casualties" which would amount to 20 per cent of enemy troops were wiped out.

Before the two above-mentioned mortar shelling, on Dec. 26, two U.S. encampments were fiercely attacked.

In Tay Ninh province, the L.A.F. hammered at the base camp of the U.S. 19th Light Infantry Brigade which had just been reorganized. AP reported that "many mortar shells were lobbed on the base and caused losses to the enemy."

About 20 km northwest of Saigon, the L.A.F. pounded about 50 mortar shells on the H.Q.'s of the U.S. 1st Infantry Division, killing or wounding several GI's and

causing heavy damage to this base. (UPI).

ACCORDING to L.P.A., the L.A.F. on December 26 launched a fierce attack on a field encampment of a detachment of the U.S. 1st Air Mobile Cavalry Division, some 4 km north of Kim Son area, Binh Dinh province.

The storm units supported by artillery engaged the

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## THE N.F.L. - SOLE GENUINE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SOUTH VIETNAM POPULATION

### THE N.F.L. HEIR TO THE SOUTH VIETNAM POPULATION'S ANTI-FOREIGN AGGRESSION TRADITION

- 1784 - 50,000 Siamese aggressors were defeated in a naval battle at Rach Gam (Mekong delta).
- 1858 - A French expedition force invaded Vietnam and occupied Da Nang and Saigon (1859).
- 1962 - An insurrection led by Truong Dinh Dath lasted until 1964 in three provinces of Gia Dinh, Binh Tuong and Binh Hoa in East Cochinchina.
- 1867 - Captured in a rebellion at Rach Gia, Nguyen Trung Truc said before he was beheaded, "So long as grass grows on this land, there will be men to fight the aggressors."
- 1868 - Nguyen Huu Huan led an insurrection in Tan An and My Tho provinces, in the Plain of Reeds.
- 1930 - The Indo-Chinese Communist Party was established. Its founder was Nguyen Ai Quoc, now President Ho Chi Minh.
- 1940 - An insurrection broke place in Nam Ky (now Nam Bo, part of South Vietnam covering the Mekong delta). The people seized power in many villages in the Mekong delta. The gold starred red flag, now the D.R.V. national flag, appeared for the first time.
- 1945 - The August Revolution was successful in Saigon (Aug. 23) and in all Southern provinces. The whole country was reunified and ruled by the government of the D.R.V.
- Sept. 23, - In the wake of the British occupation troops, the French Expeditionary corps landed in Saigon. The whole population of South Vietnam rose against them.
- 1948 - An ambush was mounted at La Nga bridge, on the Saigon-Dalat highway: 50 armed cars were destroyed, 150 enemy troops killed.
- 1954 - June - The "Battalion of Korea" or GM-100, the most powerful motorized unit of the French Expeditionary Corps, was completely wiped out near An Khe.
- July 20, - The Geneva Agreements on Indo-China, recognizing Vietnam's independence and territorial integrity, were concluded.
- 1955-1960 - This was the darkest and bloodiest period in South Vietnam's history. The inhabitants were compelled to take up arms against the fascist regime and their struggle which started in the Mekong delta spread to the whole of South Vietnam.
- 1960, Dec. 20 - The South Vietnam National Front for Liberation was founded with Mr. Nguyen Huu Thoi, a lawyer, as its President.
- 1963, Jan. 2 - The Liberation Armed Forces won the first great victory in the Ap Bac battle.
- 1964, Dec. - The Binh Gia Battle (Ba River province) took place: an important enemy force was wiped out, the "heliborne" and "armoured car" tactics was foiled.
- 1965, May 26 - In the Ba Gia battle (Quang Ngai province) the puppet army proved to be no match for the L.A.F.
- Aug. 18, - The American troops were defeated at Van Tuong, Quang Ngai province. This battle was regarded as an "Ap Bac" for the aggressors.

## SOUTH VIETNAM N.F.L. ORDERS LUNAR NEW YEAR FESTIVAL TRUCE

ON January 1, 1967, the South Vietnam N.F.L. released an order for a 7-day suspension of military attacks on the enemy on the occasion of the 7th (Lunar New Year) from 6 a.m. (Indo-China time (7 a.m. Saigon time) on Feb. 8, 1967, to 6 a.m. Indo-China time (7 a.m. Saigon time) on Feb. 15, 1967. The order reads: "The purpose of this decision is to enable our compatriots to enjoy the festival and merrily, to enable the puppet soldiers and functionaries in the Saigon puppet administration to go home and celebrate Tet with their families and friends and to provide an occasion for the U.S. and satellite troops themselves to benefit by the humanitarian policy of the South Vietnam N.F.L. during the Vietnamese traditional festival."